



LOCAL | B1

FATHER'S HEARING

Investigator describes death of 1-year-old girl at Samuel Cabbil's court appearance on murder charge



SPORTS | C1

ELITE EIGHT

Central girls basketball advances to regional finals for seventh straight year after defeating Calera

The Tuscaloosa News

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Investigation uncovered ex-girlfriend's abuse claims



Tuscaloosa County sheriff's deputies escort Clifford Madison at the county jail Friday. Madison is charged in connection with the death of Emmett Kyzer, whose remains were discovered near Vance. Kyzer had been missing since June 2016. [STEPHANIE TAYLOR/STAFF PHOTO]

Madison quickly became suspect in Emmett Kyzer's death

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Investigators who worked nearly 19 months to learn what happened to Emmett Kyzer suspected Clifford Madison from the day Kyzer's family reported him missing.

Their suspicions weren't enough to file a murder charge against him until his

ex-girlfriend came forward in January. Now, the prosecution's case against Madison is based on the statements of a woman who kept quiet out of fear of an abusive boyfriend, according to police.

Madison, 53, is accused of beating Kyzer, a wheelchair-bound 82-year-old, with a baseball bat and stabbing him with an icepick before hiding his body in the woods

and setting it on fire.

Tuscaloosa County District Court Judge James Gentry heard evidence in the case at a hearing Friday, ruling that there's probable cause to continue the prosecution of Madison in Kyzer's slaying.

Investigator Marcus Bell took the woman's statement last month, saying she confessed to her role in the case while she and Madison were

both in jail on domestic violence charges. She has not been charged in the Kyzer case.

"She was scared, she said Cliff had been beating her," Bell testified. "She was terrified."

Defense attorney Eric Snow asked Bell whether the information in the woman's

See PROBE, A3

Flu season finally shows signs of leveling off

By Mike Stobbe
and Carla K. Johnson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — This nasty flu season, which has been worsening for months, may finally be leveling off.

Health officials on Friday said about 1 of every 13 visits to the doctor last week was for fever, cough and other

symptoms of the flu. That's no reason for health officials to celebrate yet: That level is among the highest in a decade. But it's no worse than last week, and flu activity had been increasing each week since November.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report said the number of states reporting heavy flu patient

traffic also held steady at 43.

"I thought I was going to die, I really did," said Ben Bland, a 39-year-old event planner in Kansas City, Missouri, who was hospitalized this week with pneumonia on top of flu. "My lungs felt like they were going to blow out of my esophagus every time I coughed. My body ached head to toe."

This season started early

and has been driven by a formidable type of flu that tends to put more people in the hospital and cause more deaths. Making a bad year worse, this year's flu vaccine is estimated to be only 25 percent effective against that type.

Preliminary data released last week indicated patient

See FLU, A6

Counsel: Russians meddled with 2016 election

By Eric Tucker
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a historic indictment, the U.S. special counsel accused 13 Russians Friday of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging them with running a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Republican Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The federal indictment, brought by special counsel Robert Mueller, represents the most detailed allegations to date of illegal Russian meddling during the campaign that sent Trump to the White House. It also marks the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the outcome.

The Russian organization was funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the indictment says. He is a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman and a member of President Vladimir Putin's inner circle.

Trump quickly claimed vindication Friday, noting in a tweet that the alleged interference efforts began in 2014 — "long before I announced that I would run for President."

"The results of the election were not impacted. The

See TRUMP, A6

FBI didn't pursue tips on Fla. suspect

FBI was warned — twice — about Florida shooter's deadly threats

By Jay Weaver, Sarah Blaskey, David Ovalle and Nicholas Nehamas
Miami Herald (TNS)

PARKLAND, Fla. — The FBI received two alarming tips about Nikolas Cruz in the past six months: Someone who knew him well believed he was capable of murdering teachers and students. And an online commenter using the handle "nikolas cruz" professed his desire to become a "professional school shooter."

But somehow no one at the FBI connected the dots or

See FLORIDA, A6